

PROGRESS OF MEDICAL SCIENCE.

THERAPEUTICS.

UNDER THE CHARGE OF

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The Use of Methyl Salicylate for Rheumatism.—DR. GILBERT LASSERE, noting the disagreeable odor to which this drug gives rise when used externally, determined to obtain the remedy so that it could be administered by the mouth. He makes use of the pure synthetic product in the following formula: Methyl salicylate, 1; punch (sweetened), 100; distilled water, 100. Six ounces are taken during the twenty-four hours in tablespoonful doses, and this has been sufficient to relieve the pain in forty cases which were about equally divided between the acute and subacute varieties. Salicyluric acid was found in the urine within two hours from the administration of the drug. It is also eliminated by the skin. The drug appears to be useful also in gout, but since two cases only have been under observation definite statements cannot be made.—*Les Nouveaux Remèdes*, 1897, No. 22, p. 683.

The Treatment of Pernicious Malaria.—DR. CLARENCE J. MANLY produces cinchonism as rapidly as possible, and, since the temperature variations are exceedingly irregular, larger doses are necessary. The stomach can rarely be used, and hypodermatic and intravenous injections (Baccelli's method) are to be considered. The great depression must be combated by strychnine and digitalis. The patient must be sustained by enemata of whiskey, peptonized foods, and broths.—*Therapeutic Gazette*, 1897, No. 12, p. 809.

Indications for the Use of Urotropin.—DR. L. CASPER believes that in renal colic the attacks are cut short, the dull after-pains lessened or abolished, and the recurrence of the attack is postponed. With daily doses of from fifteen to thirty grains, excellent results are obtained in phosphaturia. In nearly every instance the urine became clear, even if it had been opaque for years. In cystitis and pyelitis it acts as a disinfectant of the passages; here

the daily dose of a drachm is necessary. In ammoniacal urine the pus is diminished and the remedy shows a distinct antibacterial action, especially in elderly persons who suffer from chronic suppuration in the pelvis of the kidney; and in the bladder we obtain excellent results. These are the instances in which we fear urinary poisoning. Its bactericidal properties are readily understood when we note that in its decomposition formaldehyde is set free. Since only a part is thus decomposed and the remainder is excreted as urotropin, large doses (as above mentioned) can be safely given.—*Therapeutische Monatshefte*, 1897, No. 52, S. 1338.

[Under our observation a single instance of long-standing ammoniacal cystitis, resulting from prostatic hypertrophy in a patient whose heart and kidneys forbade operation, and an entrance upon catheter life was inadvisable, the use of this remedy in fifteen-grain doses at night gave speedy relief. The improvement has continued with the above dose on alternate nights — R. W. W.]

The Treatment of Chyluria by Ichthyol.—DR. MONCORVO, JR., has made use of various remedies in the treatment of this disease, which is common in the tropics. He mentions iron, astringents, arsenic, quinine, manganese, various vegetable remedies, and hydrotherapy; all these have failed. Recognizing the parasitic origin of the disease, turpentine, cusso, naphthol, thymol, methylene-blue, and asaprol have been tried. Finally ichthyol, a germicide and astringent, was given in dose from seven gradually increased to thirty grains per day, in pill form. Two instances are reported of its successful use.—*Les Nouveaux Remèdes*, 1897, No. 23, p. 719.

Eucasin.—DR. HUGO WEISS notes the easy absorption, marked nutritive value, and absence of irritation of this food. As a food it is of equal value with casein, but the latter is not readily absorbed and frequently gives rise to intestinal fermentation. For rectal administration this preparation is available. In the hyperemesis of pregnancy nutritive enemata of this substance caused a constant increase of body-weight. Especial attention is called to the fact that it contains no nuclein, so that it does not increase the elimination of uric acid. Control observations upon patients suffering from the uric acid diathesis have shown that this opinion is correct. Frequently there has been noticed an increase in the amount of hæmoglobin in the blood. Since this food contains 95.65 per cent. of readily absorbed albumin, its value is readily apparent.—*Therapeutische Wochenschrift*, 1897, No. 51, S. 1326.

The Treatment of Gonorrhœa in Women.—DR. C. F. MARSHALL points out the incompleteness of vaginal douches, and believes that the only forms of treatment which will reach the upper portion of the vagina and distend the rugæ are (1) applications of lotions, as silver nitrate, through a speculum to the whole of the vaginal surface; (2) plugging of the vagina with wool tampons soaked in medicated fluids; and (3) medicated pessaries, the best of which are the gelatin-glycerin. The silver-nitrate treatment cannot be carried out thoroughly without an anæsthetic, and is very irritating. For the wool-tampon method the best drug is naphthol in 2 per cent. solution in alcohol and glycerin. This, however, is irritating. A glycerin solution of ichthyol